

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claim 15.

Please amend claims 1-14 and 16-24 as follows.

1. (Currently Amended) A service gateway operable to ~~for~~ (i) connecting at least one local client to an external network and (ii) ~~, the service gateway being operable to~~ hold at least one service module for providing a corresponding service, wherein the service gateway ~~comprises~~ includes a control mechanism ~~that is operable in response~~ configured to respond to a request for a first service provided by a service module not present at the service gateway, ~~to~~ by sending one or more a-messages to an external source ~~for resolving the absence of a service module at the gateway in one or more iterations until a response from the external service source identifies information including a service module within held by the gateway that enables resolution of the absent service module(s).~~ is capable of providing the first service.
2. (Currently Amended) The service gateway of claim 1, further comprising a record that identifies ~~of~~ service modules that are held by the service gateway, the record including a reference pointer to each of the service modules, wherein the control mechanism being is operable to:
 - ~~to react to a received request that identifies~~ ing a first service module by:
 - accessing the record to determine ~~identify~~ if the first service module is held by the service gateway ~~and~~;
 - using the associated pointer included in the record to cause the first service module to provide ~~the a~~ a corresponding service if the first service module is held by the service gateway; and
 - requesting support from an external source by sending a message to the external source that includes ing the an identification ty of the first service module if the first service module is not held by the service gateway; and

- to react to a response from the external source that identifies a second service module by:

accessing the record to determine if the second service module is held by the service gateway and;

using the associated pointer included in the record to cause the second service module to provide the corresponding service if the second service module is held by the service gateway; and

requesting support from an external source by sending a message to the external source that includes an identification of the second service module if the second service module is not held by the service gateway.

3. (Currently Amended) The service gateway of claim 2, wherein the control mechanism is operable to:

react to a response from the external source that identifies a further service module by accessing the record to identify if the further service module is held by the service gateway and:

using the associated pointer included in the record to cause the further service module to provide the corresponding service if the further service module is held by the service gateway; and

requesting support from an external source by sending a message to the external source that includes an identification of the further service module if the further service module is not held by the service gateway.

4. (Currently Amended) The service gateway of ~~any preceding~~ claim 1, wherein the control mechanism is operable to compare successive responses from an external source to identify response duplication indicative of a recursive error.

5. (Currently Amended) The service gateway of ~~any preceding~~ claim 1, wherein the control mechanism reacts to the identification of a service module and associated data in a response from an external source ~~byte~~ supplying the associated data to the identified service module, if held by the service gateway, for processing by the service module.
6. (Currently Amended) The service gateway of ~~any preceding~~ claim 1, wherein an external source is a service provider.
7. (Currently Amended) The service gateway of ~~any preceding~~ claim 1, wherein an external source is a service gateway operator.
8. (Currently Amended) A computer program comprising ~~computer program code on a carrier medium,~~ operable in a service gateway computer, the service gateway computer being operable to ~~for connecting~~ at least one local client to an external network, the program code being operable:
to support at least one service module at the service gateway for providing a
corresponding service; and
to ~~in response~~ respond to a request for a first service provided by a service module not present at the service gateway, ~~to~~ by sending one or more a messages to an external source ~~for resolving the absence of a service module at the gateway in one or more iterations~~ until a response from the external service source identifies ~~information including~~ a service module within ~~held by the gateway that enables resolution of the absent service module(s). is capable of providing the first service.~~
9. (Currently Amended) The computer program of claim 8, the program code being further operable to:
maintain a record that identifies ~~each~~ service module held by the service gateway, the record including with an associated reference pointer to each of the that ~~that~~ service modules; ~~and~~
~~to~~ react to a received request that identifies ~~ing~~ a first service module by:

accessing the record to ~~determine~~ identify if the first service module is held by the service gateway ~~and;~~
using the associated pointer included in the record to cause the first service module to provide ~~the a~~ corresponding service if the first service module is held by the service gateway; and
requesting support from an external source by sending a message to the external source that includes ing the an identification ty of the first service module if the first service module is not held by the service gateway; and
to react to a response from the external source that identifiesing a second service module by:
accessing the record to ~~determine~~ identify if the second service module is held by the service gateway ~~and;~~
using the associated pointer included in the record to cause the second service module to provide the corresponding service if the second service module is held by the service gateway; and
requesting support from an external source by sending a message to the external source that includes ing the an identification ty of the second service module if the second service module is not held by the service gateway.

10. (Currently Amended) The computer program of claim 9, wherein the program code is operable to:
react to a response from the external source that identifiesing a further service module by
accessing the record to identify if the further service module is held by the service gateway and:
using the associated pointer included in the record to cause the further service module to provide the corresponding service if the further service module is held by the service gateway; and

requesting support from an external source by sending a message to the external source that includes in the an identification ty of the further service module if the further service module is not held by the service gateway.

11. (Currently Amended) The computer program of claim 8~~any of claims 8 to 10~~, wherein the control mechanism is operable to compare successive responses from an external source to identify response duplication indicative of a recursive error.
12. (Currently Amended) The computer program of claim 8~~any of claims 8 to 10~~, wherein the computer code reacts to the identification of a service module and associated data in a response from an external source by to supplying the associated data to the identified service module, if held by the service gateway, for processing by the service module.
13. (Currently Amended) The computer program of claim 8~~any of claims 8 to 10~~, wherein an external source is a service provider.
14. (Currently Amended) The computer program of claim 8~~any of claims 8 to 10~~, wherein an external source is a service gateway operator.
15. (Cancelled)
16. (Currently Amended) A service gateway system comprising a processor~~and, a memory,~~
~~the system being configured to provide a service gateway according to any of claims 1 to 7,~~
and a computer program comprising program code held in said memory and operable to:
control said processor to connect at least one local client to an external network;
support at least one service module at the service gateway for providing a
corresponding service; and
respond to a request for a first service provided by a service module not present at
the service gateway by sending one or more messages to an external source

until a response from the external source identifies a service module within the gateway that is capable of providing the first service.

17. (Currently Amended) A service gateway system ~~of claim 16~~, comprising a processor, a memory, and computer program code on a carrier medium, ~~according to any of claims 8 to 14~~ the system being configured to:
 - provide at least one service module for providing a corresponding service; and
 - provide a control mechanism configured to respond to a request for a first service provided by a service module not present at the service gateway by sending one or more messages to an external source until a response from the external source identifies a service module within the gateway that is capable of providing the first service.
18. (Currently Amended) A method of servicing at least one local client connected to an external network via a service gateway, the method comprising:
 - holding at least one service module at the gateway for providing a corresponding service;
 - ~~responding in response to~~ a request for a first service provided by a service module not present at the service gateway, by sending one or more a-messages to an external source for resolving the absence of a service module at the gateway in one or more iterations until a response from the external source-service identifies information including a service module within held by the gateway that enables resolution of the absent service module(s) is capable of providing the first service.
19. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 18, further comprising:
 - maintaining a record in the service gateway that identifies each service module held by the service gateway, the record including with an associated pointer to that each of the service modules;
 - reacting to a request that identifies ~~syng~~ a first service module by:
 - accessing the record to determine ~~identify~~ if the first service module is held by the service gateway ~~and;~~

using the associated pointer included in the record to cause the first service module to provide ~~the~~ a corresponding service if the first service module is held by the service gateway; and
requesting support from an external source by sending a message to the external source that includes ~~ing the~~ an identification ty of the first service module if the first service module is not held by the service gateway; and
reacting to a response from the external source that identifies~~ing~~ a second service module by:
 accessing the record to determine ~~identify~~ if the second service module is held by the service gateway ~~and~~;
 using the associated pointer included in the record to cause the second service module to provide the corresponding service if the second service module is held by the service gateway; and
 requesting support from an external source by sending a message to the external source that includes ~~ing the~~ an identification ty of the second service module if the second service module is not held by the service gateway.

20. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 19, further comprising:
 reacting to a response from an external source that identifies~~ing~~ a further service module by accessing the record to identify if the further service module is held by the service gateway and:
 using the associated pointer to cause the further service module to provide the corresponding service if the further service module is held by the service gateway; and
 requesting support from an external source by sending a message to the external source that includes ~~ing the~~ an identification ty of the further service module if the further service module is not held by the service gateway.

21. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 18~~any of claims 18 to claim 20~~, further comprising comparing successive responses from an external source to identify response duplication indicative of a recursive error.
22. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 18~~any of claims 18 to claim 20~~, further comprising reacting to the identification of a service module and associated data in a response from an external source by to supplying the associated data to the identified service module, if held by the service gateway, for processing by the service module.
23. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 18~~any of claims 18 to claim 20~~, further comprising requesting support from an external service provider if a given service module is not held by the service gateway.
24. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 18~~any of claims 18 to claim 20~~, further comprising requesting support from an external service gateway operator if a given service module is not held by the service gateway.